



DR. CICELY WILLIAMS

## A remarkable Jamaican

by HERMA DIAZ

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LONDON:

Jamaica has long had the reputation for producing unusual sons and daughters, many of them eminent in various fields: one of these is Cicely Williams, better known in "Who's Who" as — Dr. Cicely Delphine Williams, C.M.G., D.M. FRCP., DTM: — she is laden with honours having distinguished herself in the Home and Colonial Medical services.

Dr. Cicely Williams' achievements are listed in all prestigious medical journals as well as in "Who's Who" but it is more important to meet her and realise the personal qualities of courage, humanity and kindness tempered with a strong sense of humour that have helped tremendously in her medical career. Nothing daunts Cicely Williams, for last December she was hoping to go to Katmandu a week after her 89th birthday.

She is a member of the Williams family of Kew Park, St. James who farmed in the island for eleven generations. Her father, Rowland Williams, had been Director of Education and felt that with three daughters on his hands which greatly impinged on his finances, they would have to fend for themselves after leaving school, and Cicely opted for medicine.

### 'Lord High Female Doctor'

She was educated in England at the Bath High School for girls and at Somerville College, Oxford University, but she had to fight hard the male chauvinism that exists in the medical profession. But it takes more than ego-centric males to worst Dr. Williams. She has paid consulting visits to various countries, was in Singapore in 1941 when the Japanese came and was put in the notorious Changi Prison Camp where they were actually deprived of

food; discovered vomiting sickness among children in Jamaica in 1952, taught midwifery to every nationality under the sun; was adviser to the World Health Organisation on maternal and child health and been designated 'The Lord High Female Doctor' by one of her admirers in the Far East.

Dr. Williams is a paediatrician and has written extensively on diseases of children.

This amazing woman has absorbed the knowledge, habits and customs of all the countries and people that she has known and is not a stuffy medical academic but has adapted medical treatment to the particular needs of patients, in effect; there is individualism in her treatments which made her the unqualified success that she became.

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